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Money's Worth

CIA Glamorous Secrecy Citadel

CPYRGHT

The Central Intelligence Agency, created by former President Harry Truman in 1947, has been called "the most glamorous citadel of secrecy in the capital."

Mr. Truman avows he intended the CIA to be an information-gathering agency that would forward intelligence reports to him without departmental interpretations.

The ex-President contends the CIA now has become an operational and, at times, a policy-making arm of the government, a situation which "may have compounded our difficulties in several explosive areas."

Allen Dulles Jr., former CIA director, said this week he believes the organization needs more power to move against communism. This undoubtedly is true, particularly in Latin American nations where communism is on the march.

Such power possibly should be granted. But the CIA's activities also should be made known in detail to other government agencies, particularly those dealing in diplomatic fields.

Four senators and 19 representatives have introduced proposals this year for "watchdog" committees to survey the various affairs of the CIA.

"I think that Congress has a right to know if the nation is getting its money's worth from the CIA," said Rep. Paul C. Rogers, D-Fla., who has persistently backed efforts to create a joint Senate-House committee on intelligence activities.

In this day of international espionage, the United States must have an agency assigned specifically to keeping government officials accurately informed. The CIA was created for such a purpose. But any agency of such importance should not operate without supervision other than from its own organization.

It is up to Congress to provide such supervision, without impeding efforts of the CIA.